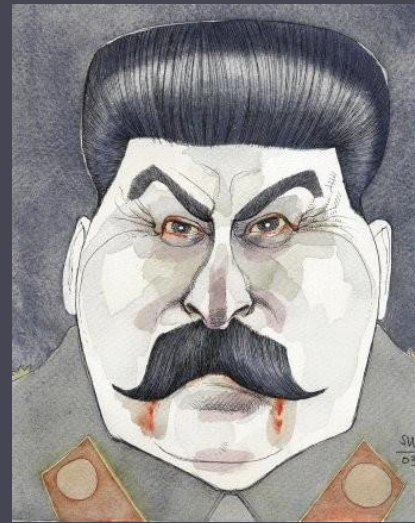
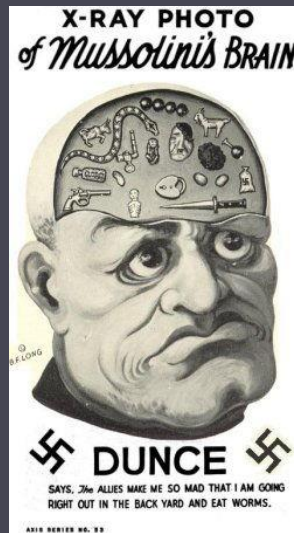




The Good War, 1941 - 1945

The United States of America in World War II



## The Rise of Fascism and Dictators, 1922 - 1941

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” - Unknown

# Stalin and the Soviet Union

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There are dictators and there are dictators. During World War II, while the United States of America and England fought to defeat the evil designs of fascist dictator Adolf Hitler, our nation was allied with an equally vile communist dictator: Josef Stalin. The Bolshevik leader was a mass murderer in his own right.



Because we shared a common enemy, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, Joseph Stalin became an American ally during World War II.



# Devastation in Europe: World War I

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- ▶ Following World War I, Europe was in shambles. Not only was the continent physically destroyed, but also, it's people were economically crippled. Even the nations on the winning side of the war were very much in debt. And, although it had been signed with the best of purposes in mind, the Treaty of Versailles did little to inspire economic rebirth.



Rebuilding Europe physically and economically in the aftermath of World War I was a global concern economically – and desperate men and women sought out short term solutions to problems which had taken decades fully emerge.



# The Great Depression in Europe

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Making things even worse in Europe, the Great Depression devastated the economy. The collapse of Wall St.'s Stock Market Exchange, along with banking failures across the United States, had had catastrophic implications in Europe as well. Our economies were largely interdependent, and both failed during this crisis.



# The Treaty of Versailles

- ▶ Germany opposed the Treaty of Versailles for two principle reasons: (1) they were blamed for having started the war, a dubious claim at best; and (2) they were forced to pay \$32 Billion in reparations. Germany was also forbidden from remilitarizing their nation.
- ▶ Italians hated the treaty as well. They believed that they should receive land claims on the Balkan peninsula, which they were denied.



# Fascism Defined

- ▶ Fascism is a political system which is based on extreme nationalism, racist and violent behavior towards minority groups or national rivals, extreme militarism, and aggression.
- ▶ Fascism is almost always accompanied by totalitarian dictatorships and civilian/government sponsored “toughs” who threaten dissenters in order to reinforce policies...
- ▶ They also seem to develop their own mythological story of the nation's genesis and need for rebirth.
- ▶ The original Fascist Party, founded in Italy in the 1920s, was led by Benito Mussolini.





# Mussolini

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- ▶ The first of the fascist dictators to take power in Europe during the World War I period was Benito Mussolini. His party railed against the Treaty of Versailles because Italy – a nation which had literally switched sides during the war – felt that it was not sufficiently rewarded for their efforts to achieve victory.



Mussolini taught school children to recite, “Mussolini is always right!”

“When fascism comes to America, it will come wrapped in the American flag and carrying a cross.”

- Sinclair Lewis, 1935

# Italian Aggression Goes Unchecked

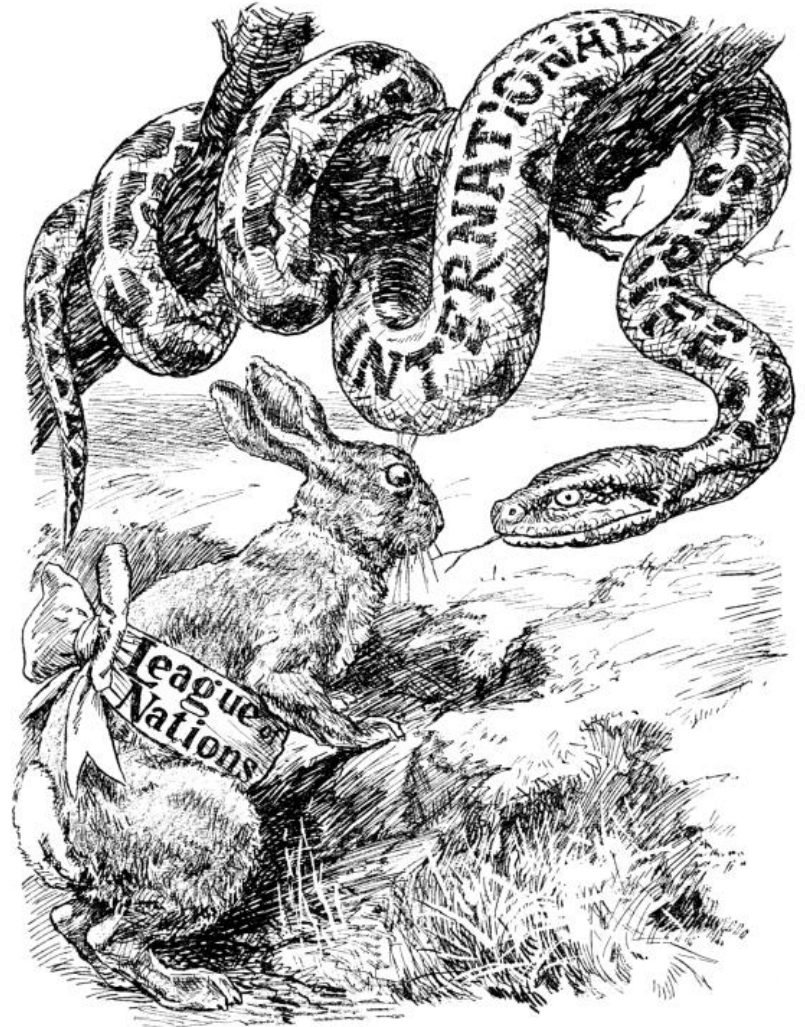
- ▶ Claiming that it was his intention to restore Italy to its former glory during the Roman Empire, Mussolini began encouraging public works programs, building up Italy's armed forces, and invading vulnerable nations nearby in order to claim whatever natural resources he might: Libya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Albania were all victimized by Fascist attacks.



# The League of Nations Fails

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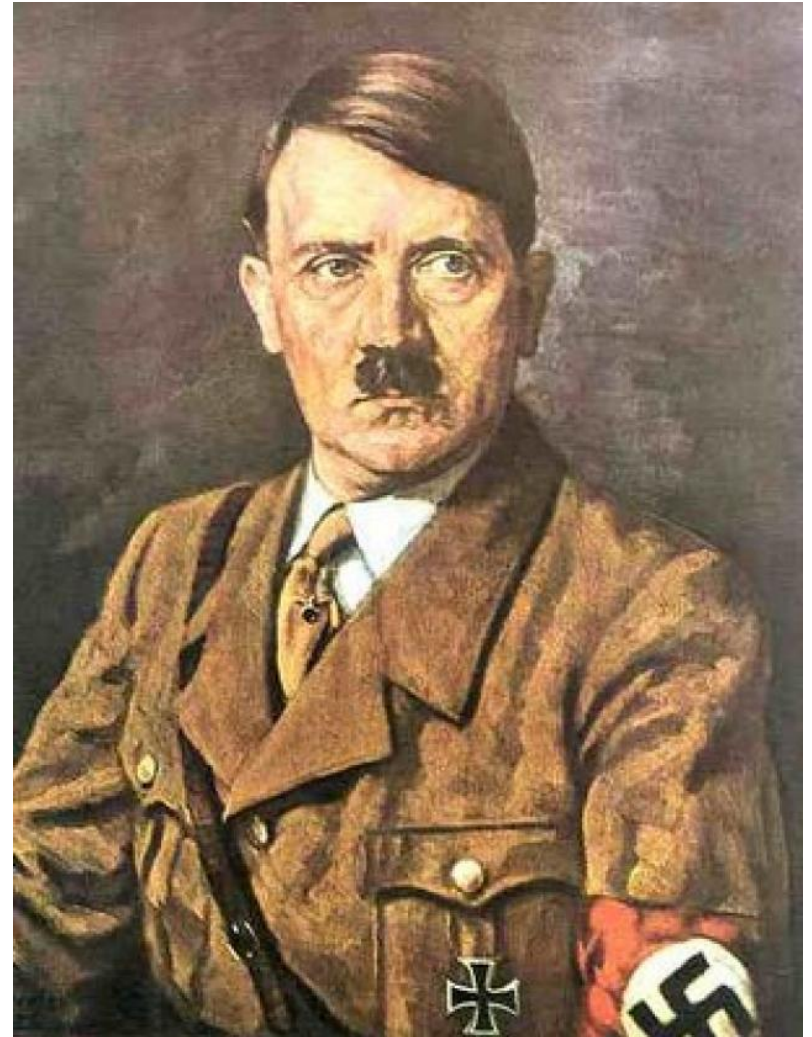
- ▶ The League of Nations, the international organization of states created in order to prevent just this sort of behavior, failed to take on the aggressors in this case. Ethiopian leader Haile Selassie, whose nation had been invaded and crushed, claimed: “It is us today. It will be you tomorrow.”





# The Rise of Adolph Hitler

- ▶ In Germany, the Nazi party was rapidly becoming a cult of personality devoted to Adolf Hitler. In his work, *Mein Kampf*, Hitler had written pseudo-biographical account of his life, and outlined a political philosophy steeped in Anti-Semitism and hatred. He blamed the men who had signed the Treaty of Versailles for Germany's present economic collapse, and rose to power through extortion and violence.



# German Aggression

After a fire in the Reichstag, Hitler seized power through extortion, and quickly outlawed all political parties except the Nazis. His plans to restore Germany militarily – and to reclaim territory lost during World War I – began immediately. Hitler built up the armed forces and occupied the forbidden Rhineland. His military supported the Franco regime in Spain, and the efforts there installed a dictator. He took Austria in the *Anschluss*. He began building military strength and increasing rhetoric over the need for “living space” for Germany.



Hitler seized Austria in 1938 without firing a single shot. He simply demanded it, and promised death and destruction would follow if it was not ceded immediately.

# German Aggression

- ▶ In 1938, the world began to be truly alarmed. After the *Anschluss*, Hitler claimed the many of the people of the Sudetenland – a part of Czechoslovakia – were in fact Germans, and that Germany must protect them by annexing the region. The Munich Conference ensued. English Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain met with Hitler, and a pact was made to cede the Sudetenland, but to end all German aggression there. It failed, as well. In the fall of 1938, Hitler seized the remainder of Czechoslovakia.



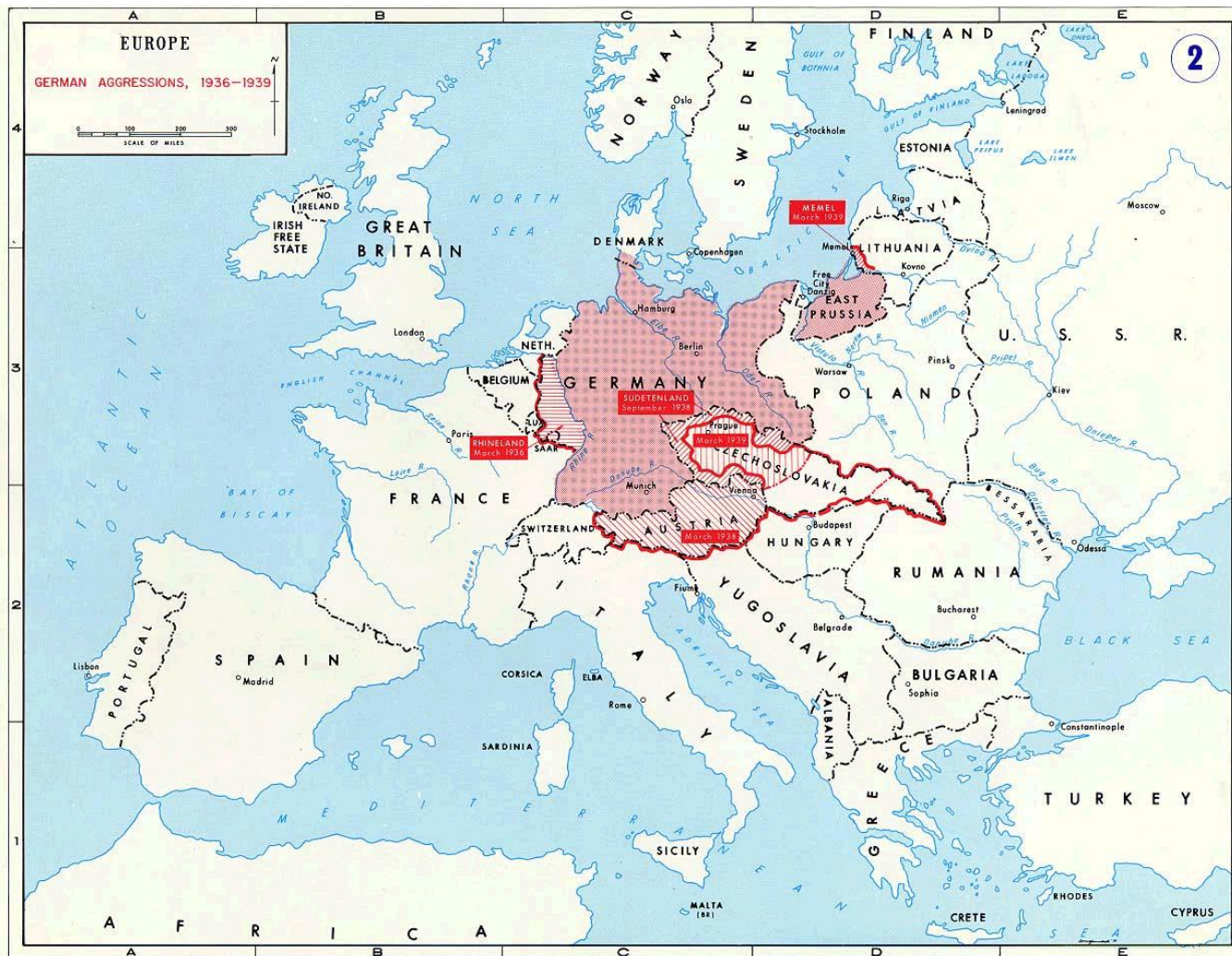




## The Policy of Appeasement: The Munich Pact

What was Neville Chamberlain thinking? How could anyone actually trust the word of Adolf Hitler in 1938? Well, at the time, it still seemed possible that war could be avoided. When Hitler signed the Munich Pact, he was promising not to invade any more territory, as long as he could keep all of the land he had conquered. It was a slap on the wrist – and an affirmation for Hitler that his methods would work: he had gained territory and resources through aggression.

# Map of German Aggression

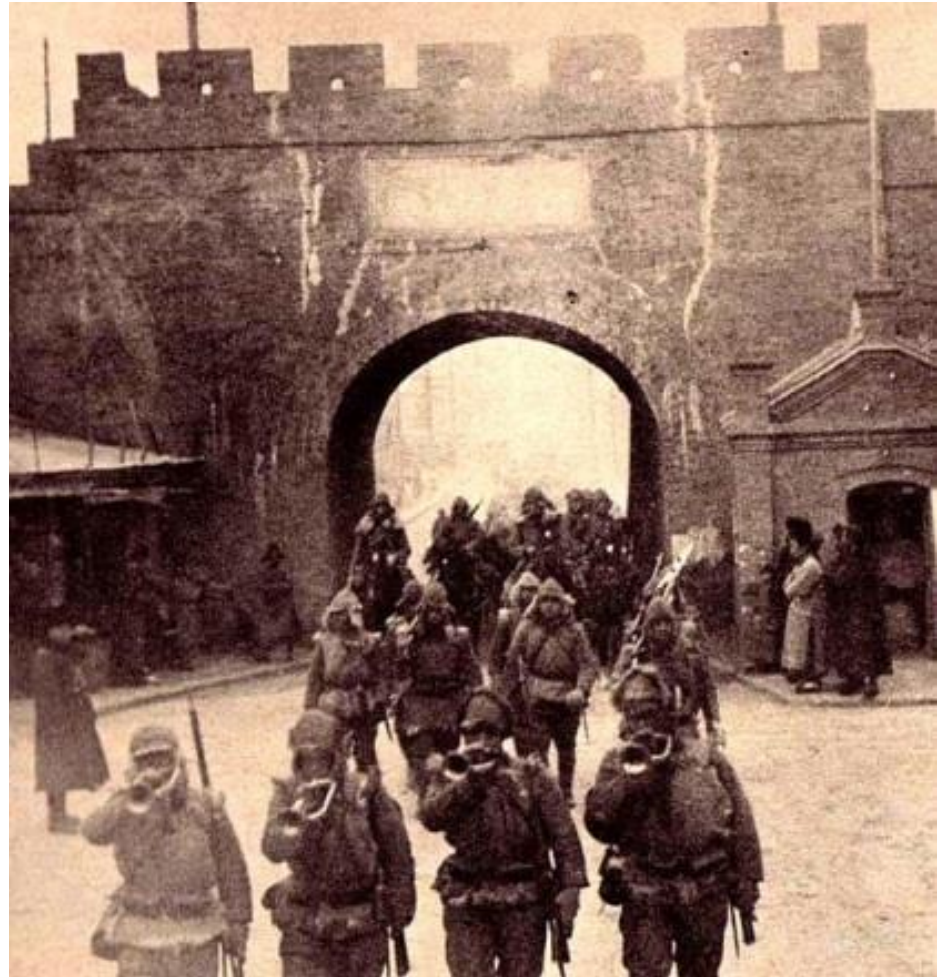


By 1939, Germany had occupied the Rhineland, taken the Sudetenland, annexed Austria, and taken over the rest of Czechoslovakia. Fearing further Nazi aggression, Europe was on the brink of war again, just twenty years after the First World War had come to an end.



# Manchuria, 1931

- ▶ The Japanese had occupied and colonized Korea since the 1910s. In 1931, the Japanese launched an invasion of Manchuria, the region of China located north of the Korean peninsula. Although it is seldom recognized as such, in many ways, this was the opening salvo of World War II. The Japanese brutally subjugated their Chinese Rivals.





# Japanese Aggression in Asia



## The Japanese Invade China, 1937

The aggression of the Japanese worsened in 1937, when a full fledged invasion of China began. Among their most violent crimes against humanity during this period was the “Rape of Nanking” in China. The atrocities which the Japanese carried out against Chinese victims were horrifying, and the war was a brutal one.

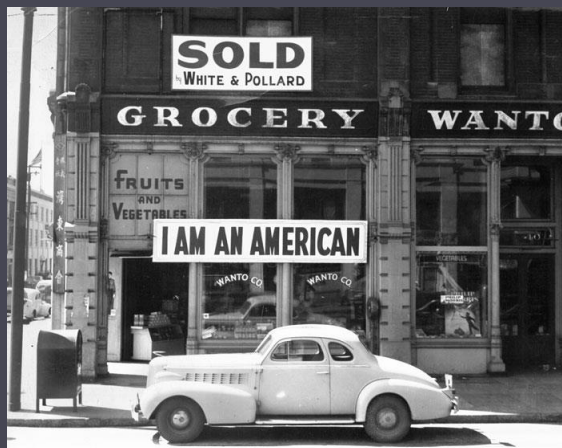
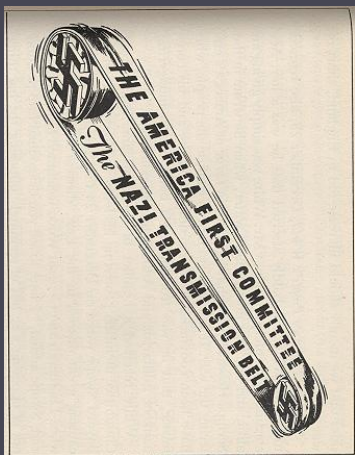


# American Embargos on Oil and Steel

- ▶ The United States was opposed to Japanese aggression in the Pacific, and viewed the nation as a major threat to our own Pacific interests: namely, the Philippines, Midway Island, Wake Island, and Hawaii. When Japan launched an assault into China, the USA placed an embargo on the Japanese, cutting off their steel and oil supplies from the United States.







# Dissent and Mobilization on the Homefront, 1935 - 1945

Americans Grudgingly Go to War, and Our Values are Challenged at Home and Abroad.



# The Neutrality Acts

- ▶ The people of the United States were not at all inclined to participate in another war in the 1930s. Many felt that US intervention in World War I had been of little value; thus, another war seemed hazardous. Neutrality Acts passed in 1935, 1937, and in 1939 all placed serious restrictions on how much the United States government could support our allies in Europe. They forbid the loaning of money to allies, and put heavy restrictions on arms manufacturers who wanted to send weapons abroad.





# The America First Committee

- ▶ Many groups in the United States protested American involvement in the Second World War. Groups like the American-German Bund openly supported Germany in the years before US entry into the war. Other groups, like the American First Committee, were so critical of FDR that they seemed to be supporting the Nazis at times. Charles Lindbergh was one of the most prominent activists for the American First Committee.



By Dr. Seuss



# The Cash and Carry Policy

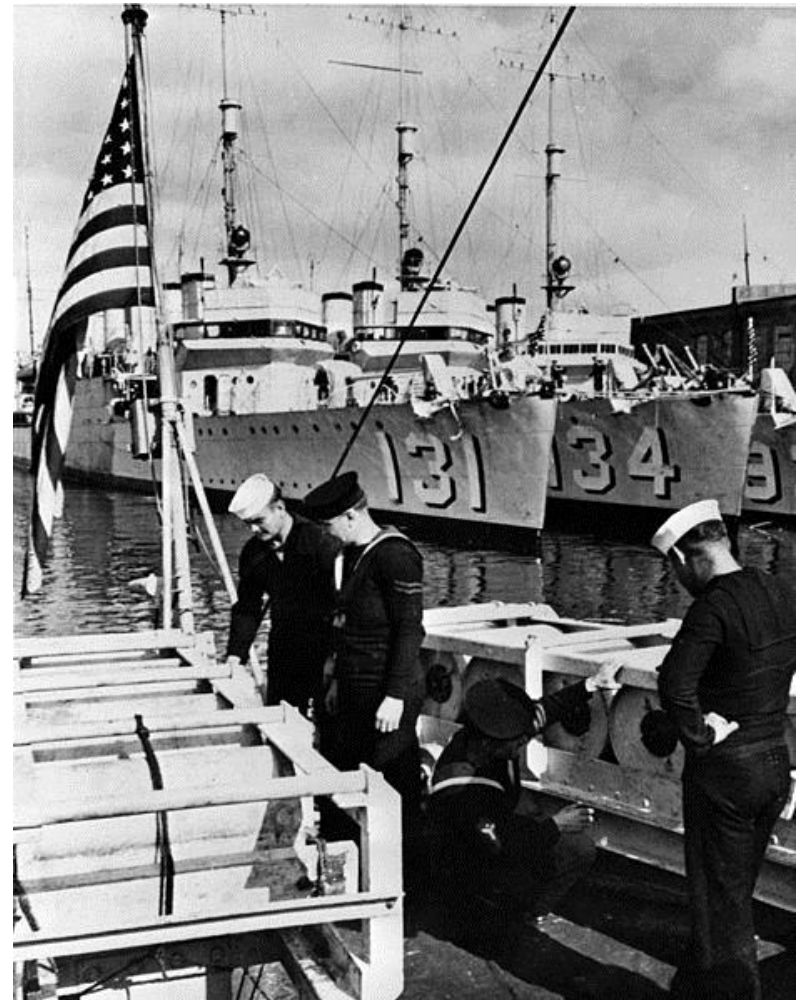
- ▶ FDR was, in fact, seeking a way to help American allies in Europe during World War II. He favored United States entry into the war, but he knew that the people were not behind him yet. So, small steps toward US participation were required. The “Cash and Carry” policy was a step towards US involvement. It allowed American firms to sell weapons to our allies; however, the goods must be paid for in cash, and they must be transported by non-American vessels. Very little aid got to England, and what did come at great cost.



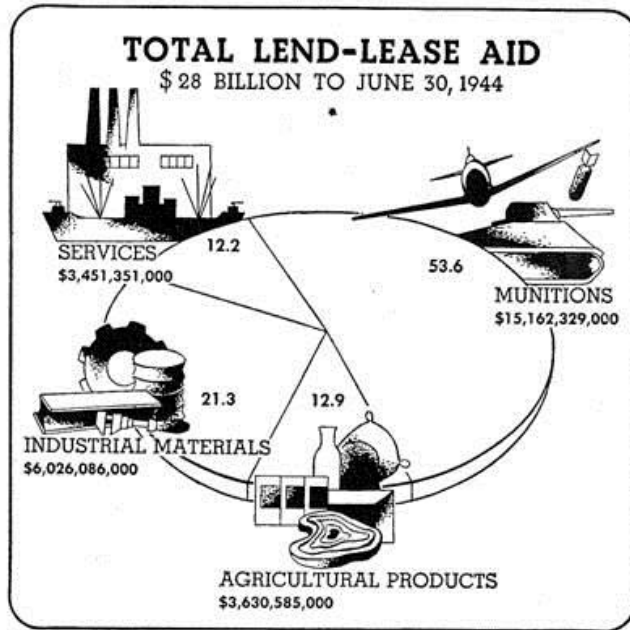
How're We Doing?

# Destroyers for Bases

- ▶ In 1940, the United States made a deal with the British in order to help support their navy. The US government delivered the British Navy fifty mothballed destroyers – in exchange for access to or ownership of naval bases in the Atlantic Ocean from Newfoundland to the Caribbean. American forces basically took over the defense of these ports, and the British were now able to use US destroyers to hunt Nazi submarines.



# The Lend-Lease Act



- ▶ Franklin Roosevelt was at his best when he convinced Americans that the Lend-Lease Act was “like lending a neighbor your garden hose when their house caught fire.” In fact, this was a dramatic step towards active involvement in World War II. The act allowed Americans to lend, lease, or provide weapons to any nation deemed vital to our own national security. The United States, Roosevelt claimed must become an “Arsenal for Democracy” and send “guns, not sons” to Europe to defeat the Axis Powers. Some supporters of intervention believed that the act did not go far enough.



# The Atlantic Charter

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- ▶ Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met off the coast of Newfoundland in August of 1941, and agreed that democratic nations must rule Europe, and that fascist nations must be defeated. FDR did not and could not declare war – only Congress could – yet, he meant to “wage war, but not declare it, and that he would become more and more provocative...to force an incident” with Germany.



# THE Atlantic Charter

THE President of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

1. *Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other.*

2. *They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.*

3. *They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.*

4. *They will endeavor, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity.*

5. *They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic advancement and social security.*

6. *After the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling*

*in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.*

7. *Such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance.*

8. *They believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.*

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

August 14, 1941

## The Atlantic Charter of 1941

The Atlantic Charter was definitely anti-Germany, claiming, "After the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want." FDR wanted to support Churchill more openly, but lacked the power to declare war.

# Pearl Harbor

- ▶ On December 7, 1941, a Sunday morning, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the Empire of Japan. FDR would go the Congress the following day to formally ask Congress to declare war on Japan. It only took a few days to also declare war on Germany, and to prioritize the defeat of the Nazis.

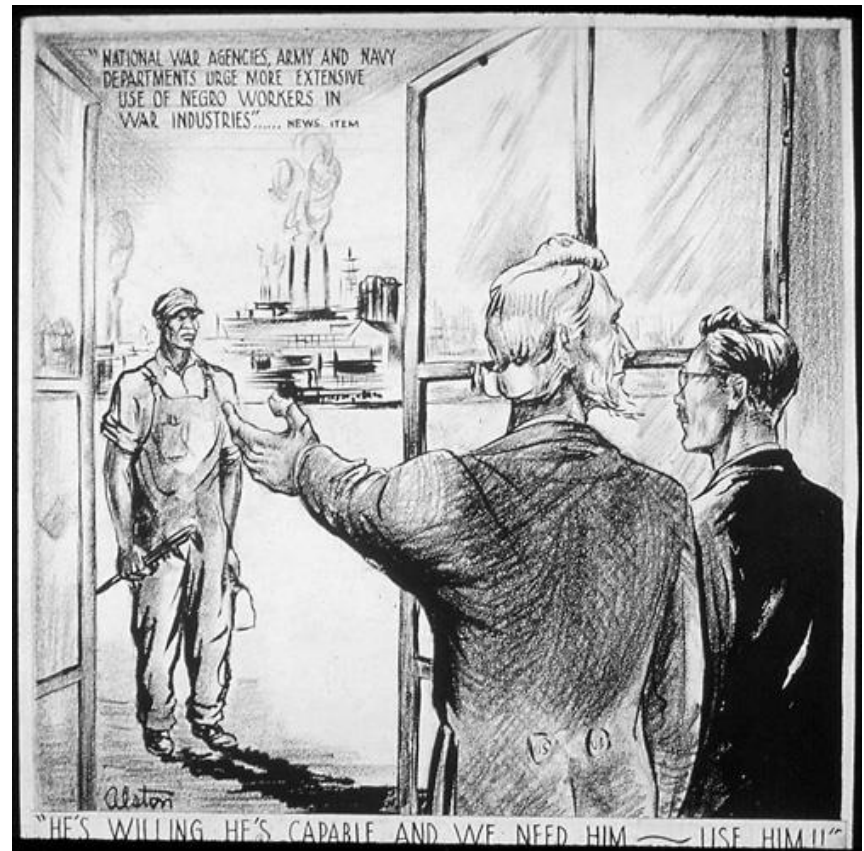




# The Role of African-Americans EO#8802

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As the mobilization for war ramped up during the late 1930s and early 1940s, the United States government began to hire contractors to produce war materials. During this period, however, African-Americans were not hired for these contract or even to work in the industry. FDR issued Executive Order #8802 in order to end discrimination in hiring practices for defense industry jobs. Soon, African American contractors and employees were being hired for government jobs.



# The Role of Women in the War

As they had during the First World War, women took on jobs in factories and in the military during World War II. “Rosie the Riveter” was any woman who worked in the factories in order to produce war materials. By taking on certain jobs that were not considered “ladylike,” they made the United States much more productive and helped the Allies to win the war.



# Japanese Internment Camps – E.O. #9066



As soon as war was declared against Japan, internment camps were opened by the US government for Japanese Americans. The loyalty of Japanese Americans was questioned, and their civil liberties were taken for the duration of the war.

## Civilian Exclusion Order No. 5

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

Presidio of San Francisco, California

April 1, 1942

### INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

#### LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worcester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon, Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

(OVER)

Revised by: Japanese American Citizens League  
National Committee to Report the Emergency Detention Act  
475 Bay Street,  
1100 Park 10th Street, Berkeley, Calif. 94702



# The Nisei – Serving the United States

- ▶ No internment camps were opened for Italian-Americans, or German-Americans. Racism seems to account for the imprisonment of the Japanese. Yet, thousands of Japanese volunteered to serve in the US Armed Forces during the war. Most were sent to Europe, along the Italian front. These men, known as the Nisei, served bravely and patriotically for their country: The United States of America.



# The Navajo Code Talkers

Members of the Navajo tribe came up with a unique code based upon their own language to convey messages over the radio during World War II. Although the system was relatively simple, it proved impossible for the Japanese to break. There were no speakers of the Navajo language anywhere in Japan.

One of the very important themes of the World War II Era in the United States is that of strength through diversity. The United States was a much more formidable military thanks to the unbreakable code provided by the Navajo.



# The Tuskegee Airmen

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- ▶ The Tuskegee Airmen were a select group of African-American pilots who flew in segregated units during World War II. Although it took a long time for the United States to allow these men to serve in combat, once they were selected to serve as protection for the bombing raids which were carried out over Germany, they served capably and helped the United States to win the war.





# Rioting in Detroit

- ▶ In the early 1940s, thousands of African-Americans moved to northern cities and to California in order to serve in defense industry jobs. In some cities, the integration of the community caused racial strife. Detroit was one of the most notorious cities in this regard. Rioting broke out there in 1943 which resulted in dozens of deaths.



# The Double-V Campaign

- ▶ For African-Americans, service in World War II had two goals. They wanted to defeat the fascists abroad to be certain; however, they also sought – through their service to the nation – to end racism in the United States. Discrimination, segregation, “Jim Crow” laws, and social injustice all had to go! In many ways, the Civil Rights Movement began during World War II!



Victory over Fascism Abroad;  
Victory over Racism at Home!

# Einstein and the Manhattan Project

File this one under strength through diversity, as well. During the 1930s, Albert Einstein – Jewish by birth and unwelcome in Nazi dominated Europe – came to the United States. Once here, he wrote to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, explaining that Nazi scientists were actively working upon a power new kind of weapon – the atomic bomb. He advised the President that if the United States were able to discover and harness the power of the atom first, we would be much better off as a nation. And we did. And, for better or for worse, we used this terrible weapon to win the war.



F.D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States,  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

Albert Einstein  
Old Grove Rd.  
Pasadena, Long Island  
August 2nd, 1939

Sirs

Some recent work by E. Fermi and L. Szilard, which has been communicated to me in manuscript, leads me to expect that the element uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future. Certain aspects of the situation which has arisen seem to call for watchfulness and, if necessary, quick action on the part of the Administration. I believe therefore that it is my duty to bring to your attention the following facts and recommendations:

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable - through the work of Joliot in France as well as Fermi and Szilard in America - that it may become possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium, by which vast amounts of power and large quantities of new radium-like elements would be generated. Now it appears almost certain that this could be achieved in the immediate future.

This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable - though much less certain - that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed. A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory. However, such bombs might very well prove to be too heavy for transportation by air.

-2-  
The United States has only very poor ores of uranium in moderate quantities. There is some good ore in Canada and the former Czechoslovakia, while the most important source of uranium is Belgian Congo.

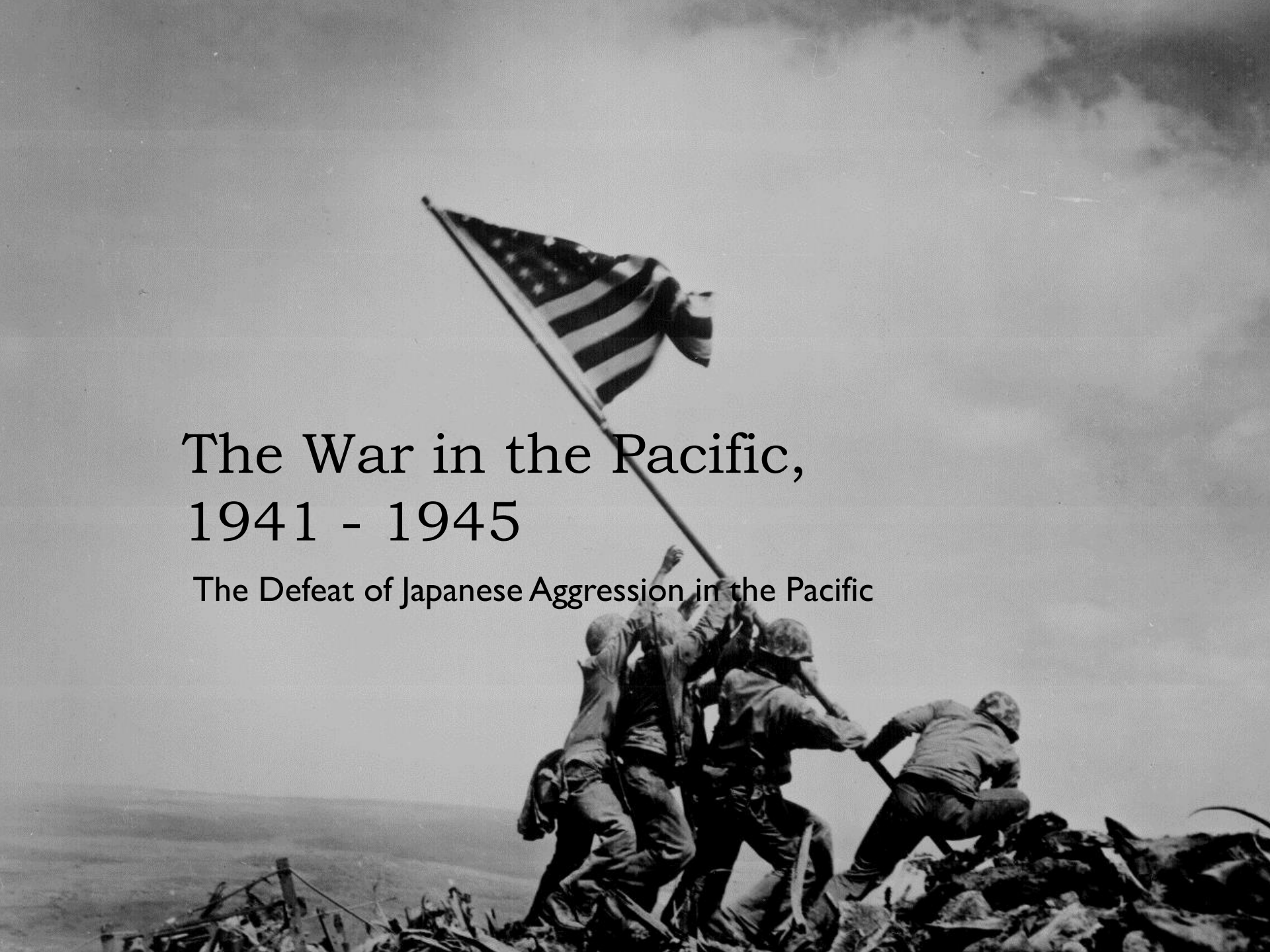
In view of this situation you may think it desirable to have some permanent contact maintained between the Administration and the group of physicists working on chain reactions in America. One possible way of achieving this might be for you to entrust with this task a person who has your confidence and who could perhaps serve in an unofficial capacity. His task might comprise the following:

- a) to approach Government Departments, keep them informed of the further development, and put forward recommendations for Government action, giving particular attention to the problem of securing a supply of uranium ore for the United States;
- b) to speed up the experimental work, which is at present being carried on within the limits of the budgets of University laboratories, by private persons who are willing, through his contacts with and perhaps also by obtaining the co-operation of industrial laboratories which have the necessary equipment.

I understand that Germany has actually stopped the sale of uranium from the Czechoslovakian mines which she has taken over. That she should have taken such early action might perhaps be understood on the ground that the son of the German Under-Secretary of State, von Weizsäcker, is attached to the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut in Berlin where some of the American work on uranium is now being repeated.

Yours very truly,  
A. Einstein  
(Albert Einstein)



A black and white photograph showing several soldiers in the foreground, struggling to raise a large American flag on a tall pole. The flag is partially unfurled and flies against a cloudy sky. The soldiers are wearing helmets and combat uniforms. The ground is rocky and uneven. In the background, a body of water and distant hills are visible under a bright, overcast sky.

# The War in the Pacific, 1941 - 1945

The Defeat of Japanese Aggression in the Pacific

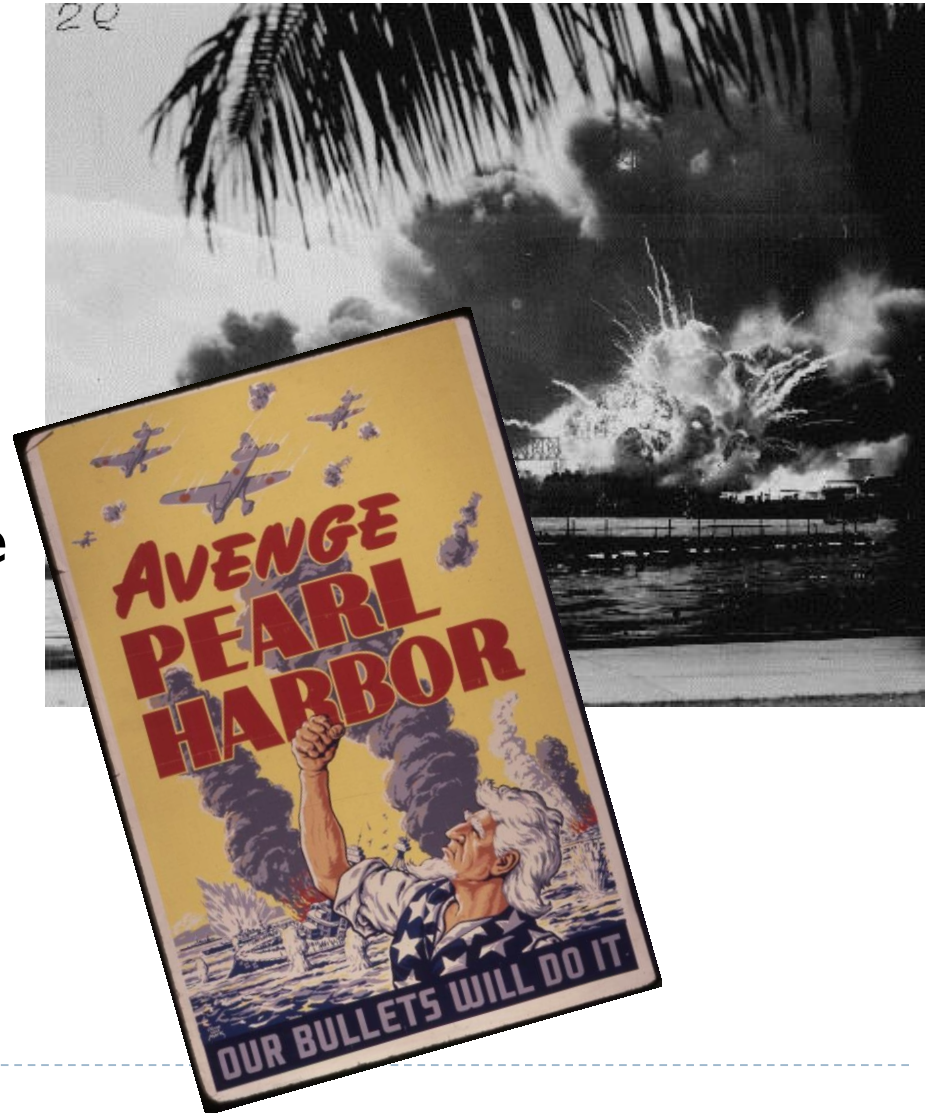
# Reasons for the Attack on Pearl Harbor

- ▶ First of all, there is no justifiable reason for a pre-meditated act of war – without warning – against the United States in December of 1941.
- ▶ Americans were angered that Japan had been engaged in aggression in Asia, and worried that our own territories may be endangered by the Japanese.
- ▶ The United States of America, put an embargo on Japan and forbid the sale of oil and steel to the Empire of Japan. This is – perhaps – why they attacked.



# Pearl Harbor and the Declaration of War

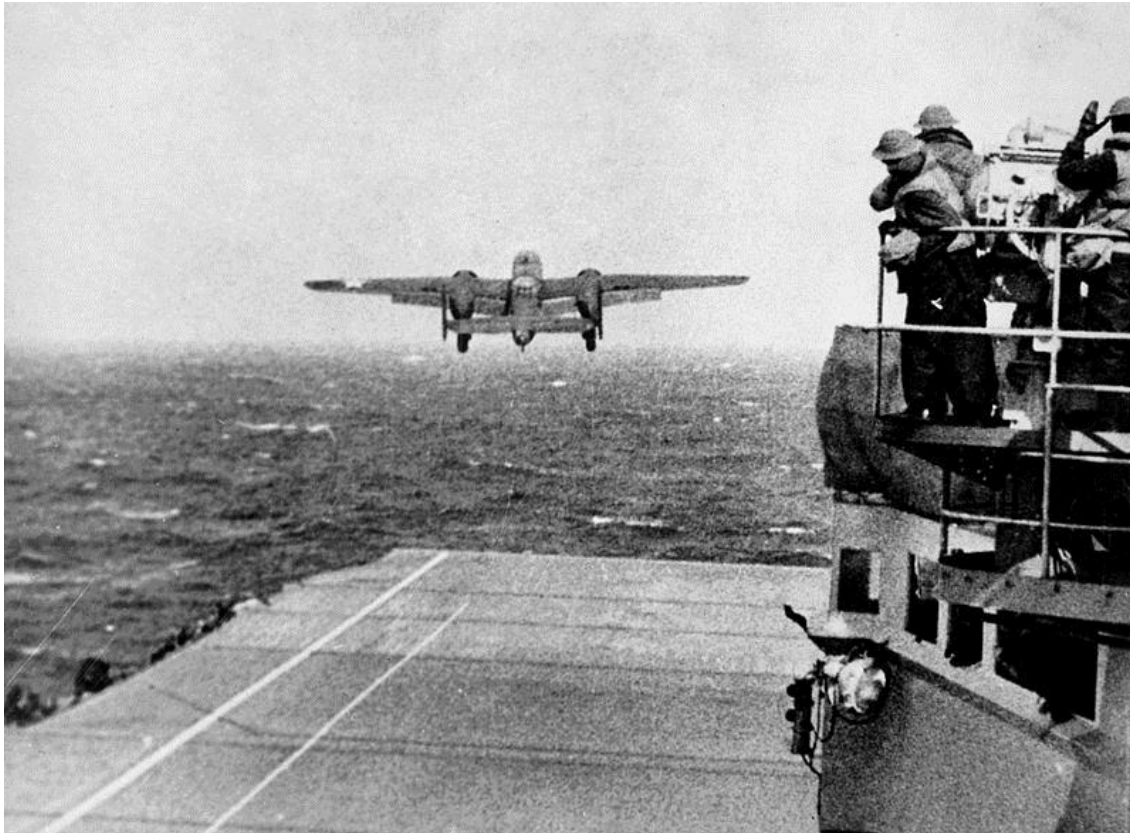
- ▶ The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Sunday morning, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941. Franklin Roosevelt called it “a date that will live in infamy...” Immediately afterward, the United States Congress declared war on Japan. We would soon be at war with all of the nations of the Axis Powers.





# The Doolittle Raids

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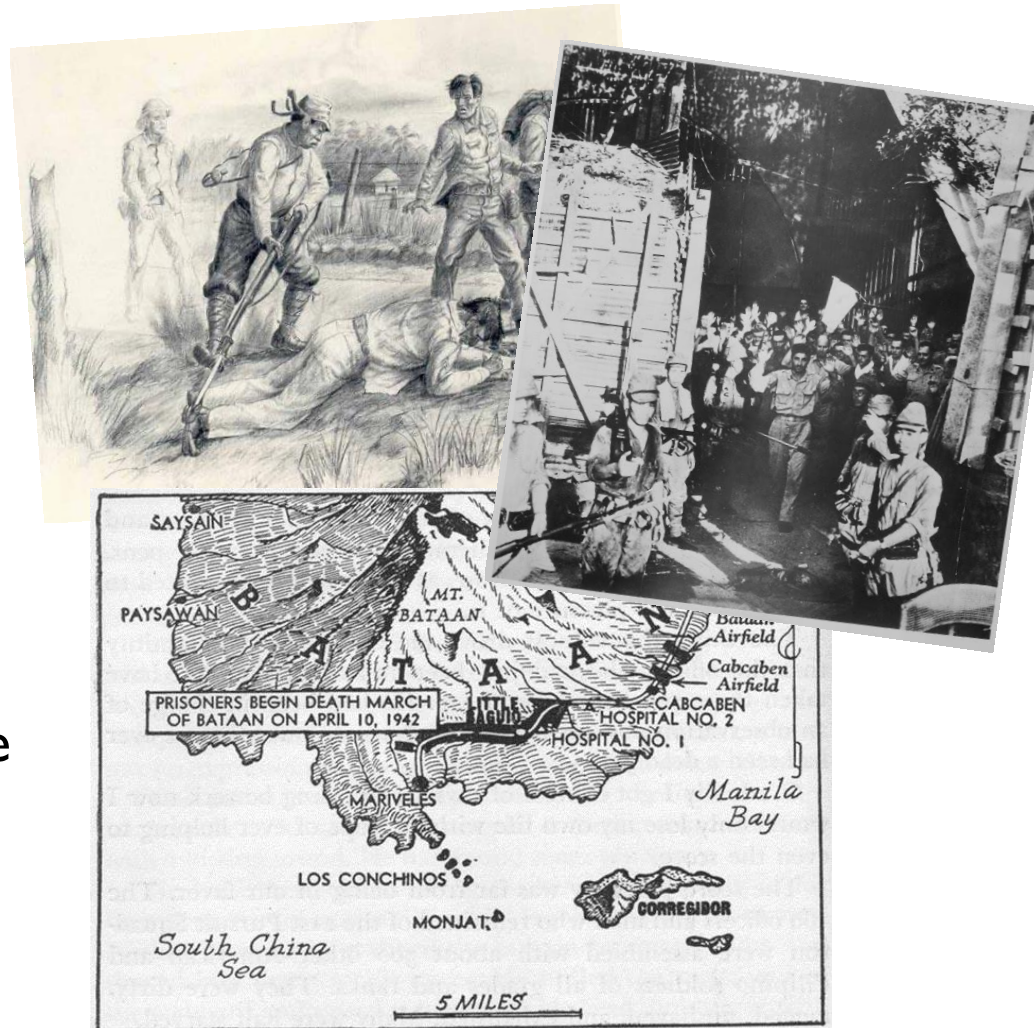


Although the United States was unable to get back at the Japanese immediately, one event which was symbolically significant was the Doolittle raids in April of 1942. American bombers flew over and bombed Tokyo during these raids, causing great damage to the capital city. But even during this raid, the pilots were forced to crash land in China, and many were captured and executed by the Japanese.



# The Bataan Death March

- ▶ During the Bataan Death March, thousands of American and Filipino prisoners of war were executed by their Japanese captors. Forced to march over sixty miles across the Bataan Peninsula, any soldier who stepped out of line, fell down, or attempted to escape was immediately executed by the Japanese. Rumors of the atrocities committed by the Japanese left some Americans fearful; however, it also fueled the desire of Americans to seek revenge against an enemy which was now perceived as inhumane.



# Chester Nimitz and Douglas MacArthur

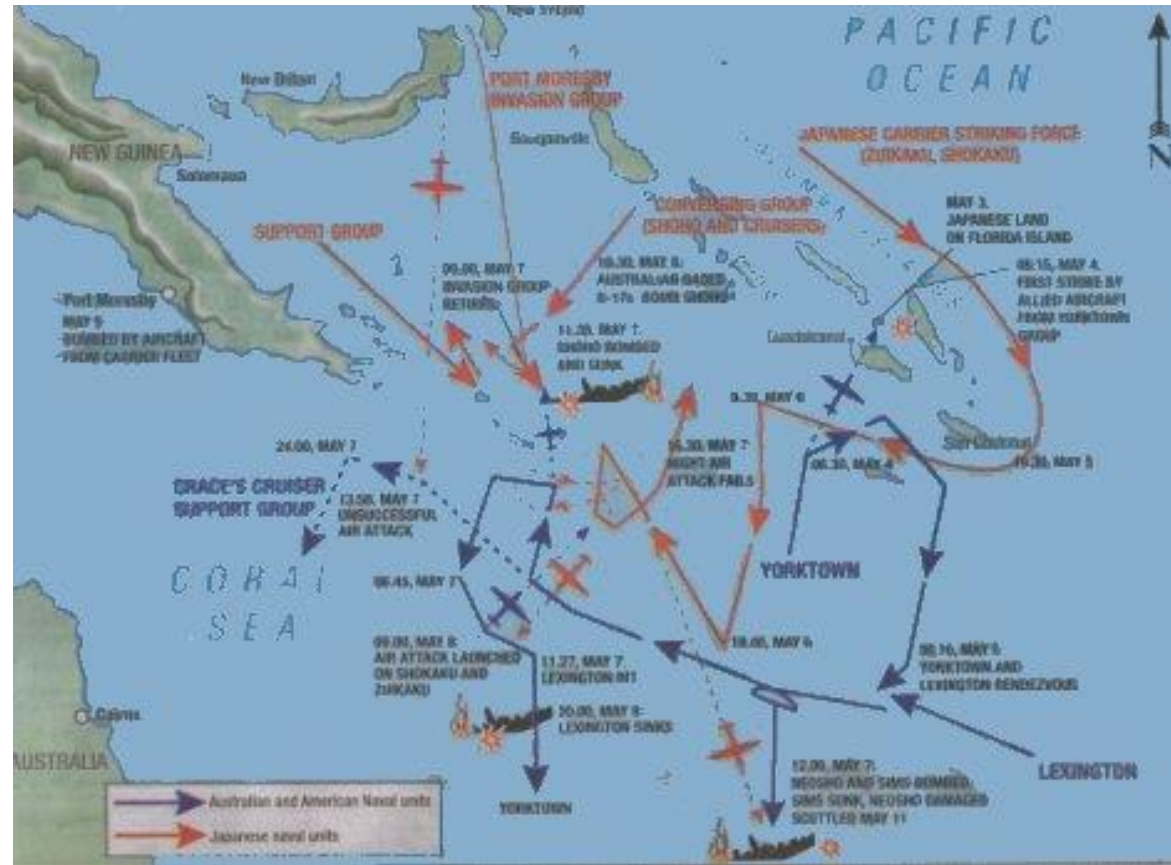
- ▶ You wouldn't be able to tell from the press releases that came out of the Pacific, but Admiral Chester Nimitz was the man in command of that theatre of war. More outspoken and more popular with the press was General Douglas MacArthur. The two men would use the "island hopping" strategy in order to defeat the Japanese. But the war was long and difficult, and it didn't start well.





# The Battle of the Coral Sea

- ▶ The Battle of the Coral Sea was certainly not a decisive victory; however, it was the first time during World War II that the United States Navy actually turned back Japanese aggression. Working with the Australian Navy, the US succeeded in stopping the progress of the Japanese. Heavy losses were sustained on both sides.



# Island Hopping: Guadalcanal, Tarawa

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## Guadalcanal



The Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942 lasted for months, as Americans had to fight for every square foot of ground against Japanese soldiers who preferred death to surrender.

## Tarawa



The island hopping strategy employed by Americans meant that not every island was to be contested. But Tarawa was, and Japanese committed to the code of Bushido fought to the death.

# Midway Island

- ▶ The turning point in the War in the Pacific was undoubtedly the Battle of Midway Island in 1942. When American pilots on patrol stumbled upon four Japanese aircraft carriers surging towards Midway Island – from which they hoped to launch a second attack on Hawaii – Americans were able to strike decisively against the enemy fleet. All four carriers were sunk, and the Japanese Navy was permanently weakened.



Midway Island, the turning point in the Pacific Theatre of War. Americans sank four Japanese aircraft carriers here in 1942.



# The Battle of Iwo Jima

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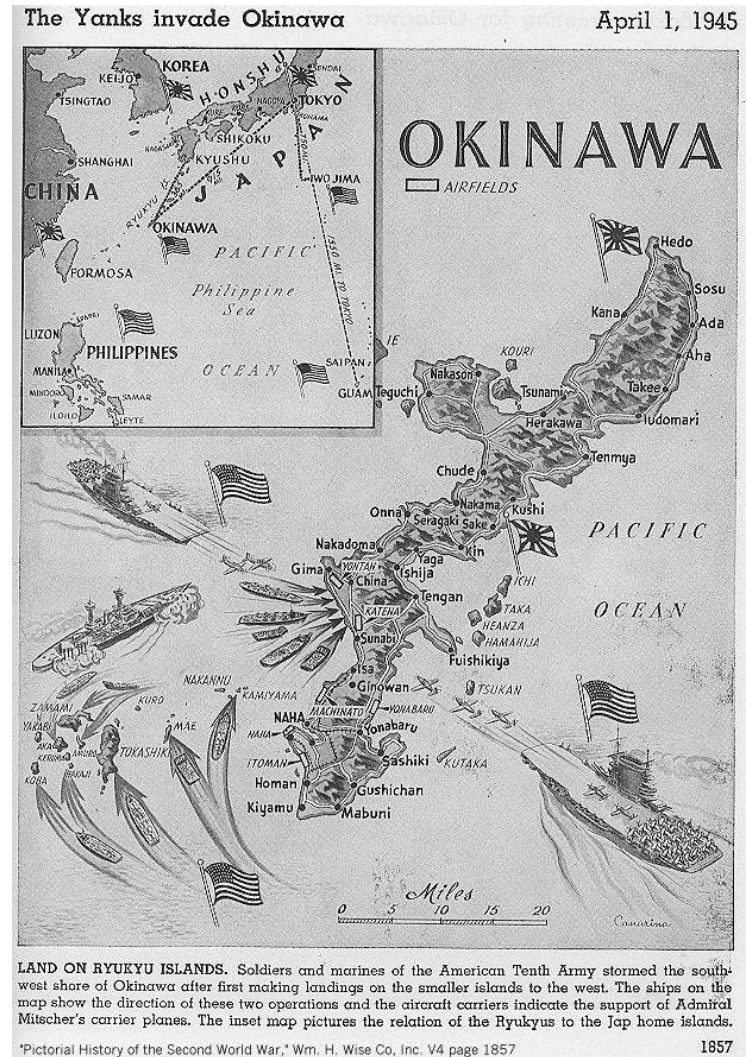


A part of the United States “island hopping” campaign, the Battle of Iwo Jima is perhaps most famous as the one where the famous photograph of Marines placing the United States flag into position atop Mount Suribachi was taken. The capture of this island was particularly important. From here, American planes could lift off, fly sorties over mainland Japan, and still return safely to the island.



# The Battle of Okinawa

- ▶ Closer still to the Japanese mainland was the island of Okinawa. When the devastating incendiary bombings of Japan began, many of the bombers lifted off from this island. Indeed, the United States bombers which would drop the atomic bomb over Hiroshima and Nagasaki took off from Okinawa. The battle to take the island was a bitter and difficult struggle.





# Incendiary Bombings: Tokyo

In a single night in the spring of 1945, the United States Air Corps, under the command of Curtis LeMay, killed over 100,000 civilians in Tokyo, Japan through incendiary bombing. Over half of Tokyo was burned to the ground, as the wood city lit up and high winds spread the fires. This action was repeated in dozens of cities across Japan – and many historians believe that the devastation from these bombings was far more important than the use of the atomic weapon in getting the Japanese to surrender.





# J. Robert Oppenheimer: The A-Bomb

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During World War II, it was Albert Einstein who had alerted the President of the United States that the dread possibility of an atomic weapon was real. Had the Germans discovered the power of the atom before the United States did, the world would surely be a different place today. It was J. Robert Oppenheimer who led the efforts of the United States to create the atom bomb during the Manhattan Project. In June of 1945, at Las Alamos, New Mexico, the first atomic weapon was successfully tested.



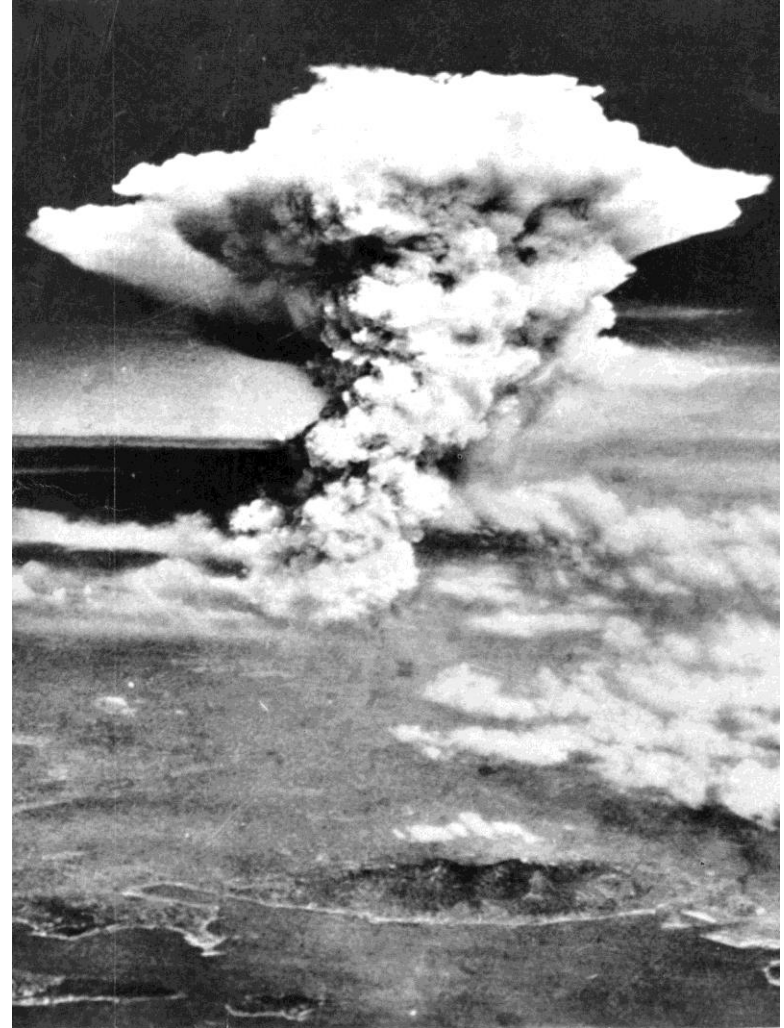
“Now I am become Death, the  
Destroyer of worlds.”



# Hiroshima

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On August 6, 1945, the first atomic weapon was used over Hiroshima, Japan. The bomb killed over 100,000 civilians – most instantly, but thousands more from horrifying, scalding burns and radiation poisoning. Although many Americans today believe that the atomic weapon was so decisive that the Japanese were forced to immediately surrender, it is perhaps important to note that the Empire of Japan made no move to surrender at this point – incendiary bombings over the course of the past months had done at least as much damage to the region.



# Harry S Truman and the A-Bomb

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Harry S Truman always claimed that it never even crossed his mind not to use this awful weapon. In his mind, the alternative to using the atomic bomb was to launch a full scale invasion of the Japanese mainland, which would have resulted in one million American deaths and at least twice that number of Japanese dying. Convinced that the atomic weapon had actually saved lives – and content that the Japanese deserved their fate for having carried out the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor and countless other atrocities – Nanking, the Bataan Death March – Truman said that he never lost a moments sleep over the decision.





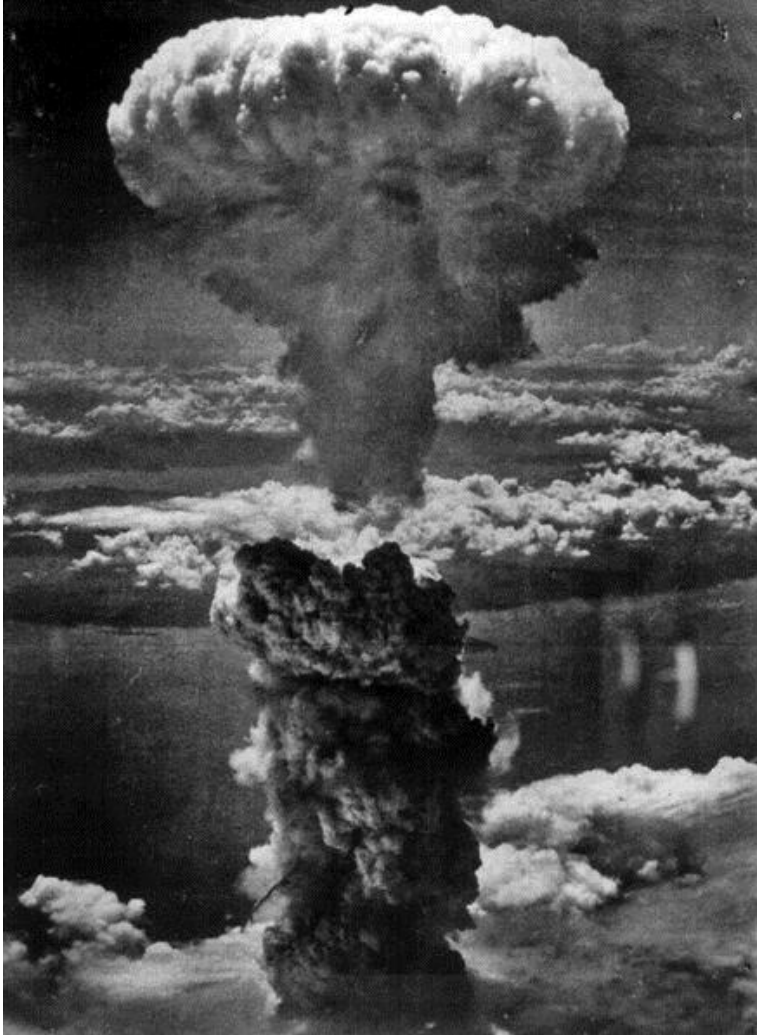
# Bushido

The Japanese were committed to the idea of death before dishonor. Most soldiers refused to surrender until the end of the war. They preferred death to the dishonor of surrendering to the enemies of their homeland. Many thousands of Japanese civilians took their own lives rather than surrender. Some leapt from the cliffs of the island nation rather than surrender to the Americans who would occupy the islands.



# Nagasaki

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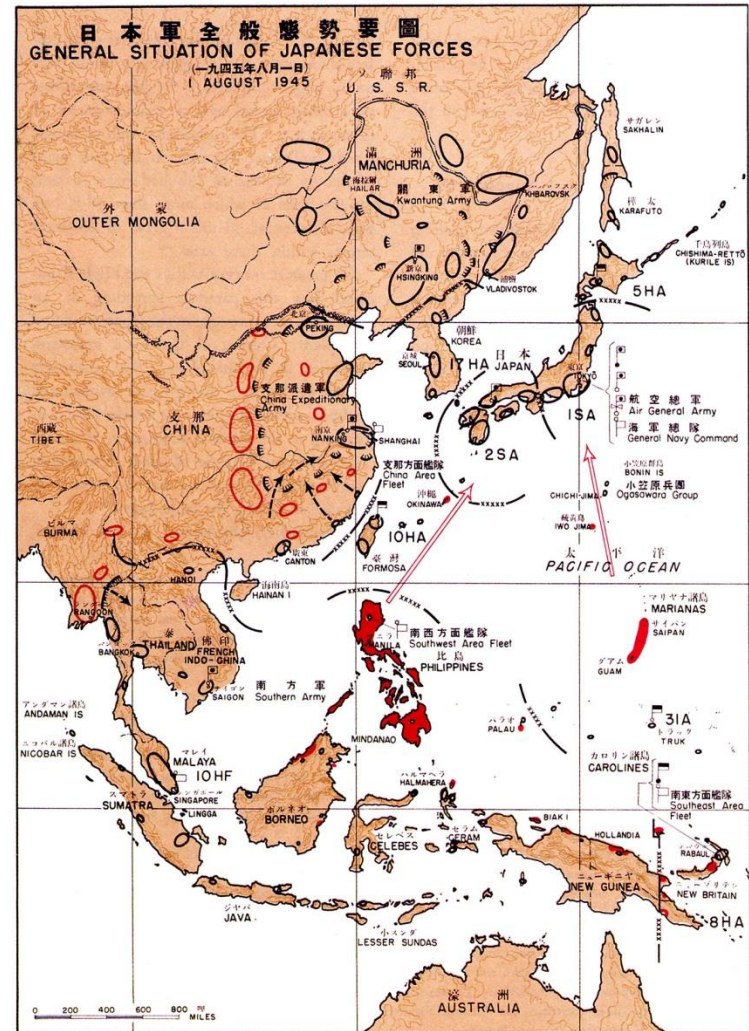


When Nagasaki was bombed on August 9, 1945, the United States was officially out of atomic weapons. Some historians believe that the second bomb was entirely unnecessary. The Empire of Japan was already on the verge of surrender, not because of the atomic weapon, but because of the agreement made at Yalta earlier in 1945. At that meeting, FDR's last as President of the United States, the USSR had promised to support Americans in the War in the Pacific ninety days after V-E Day in Europe.



# The Russians Enter the War

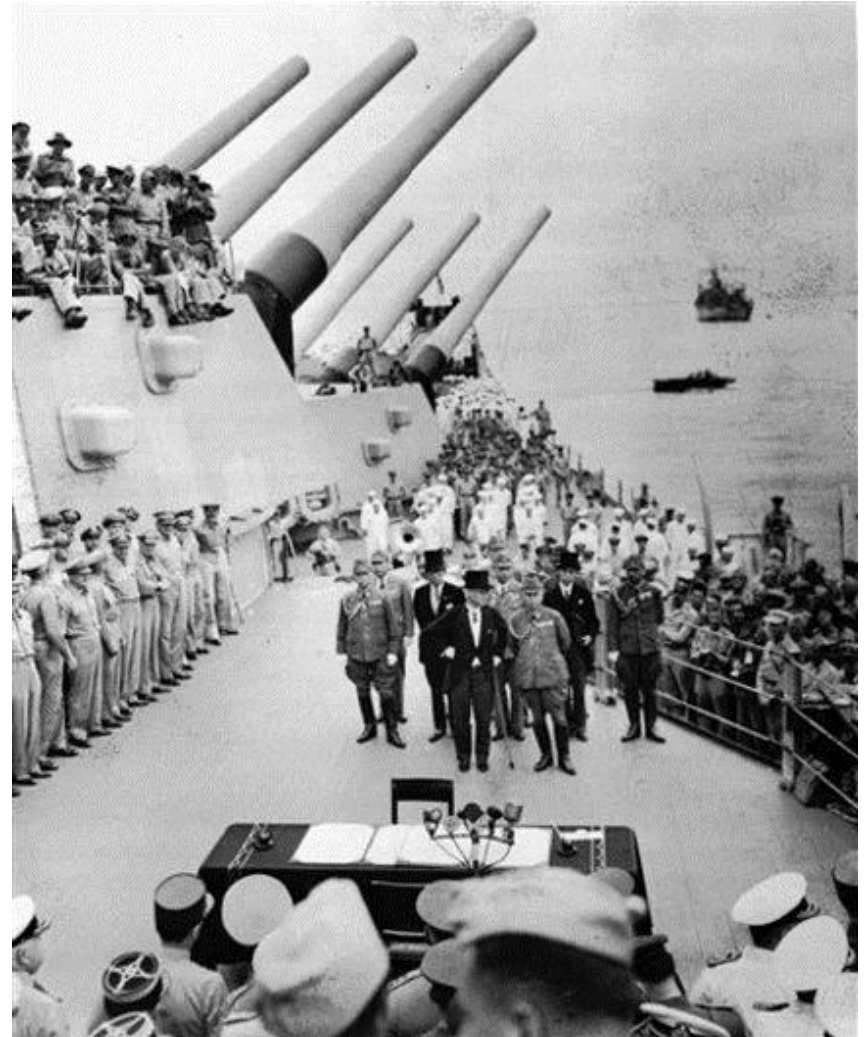
V-E Day was on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945, and ninety days forward from that date was August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945. The Empire of Japan, already floundering and seeking terms for surrender from the United States, understood the grave implications of the Soviet Union's entry into the war, and sought to surrender immediately rather than take on the Red Army. Whether the atomic weapons were deployed against Japan or not, it is likely that the nation would have surrendered on or about August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945 – for fear of the USSR.





# Surrender: September 2, 1945

The formal surrender of Japan took place on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945 on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Harbor. The United States claimed that this was an unconditional surrender; however, in order to facilitate a more peaceful transition to peace, the life of the Emperor Hirohito was spared. He would, however, be required to disavow the notion that he was superhuman and acknowledge the Americans as legitimate occupiers of the nation in the aftermath of the war.







The War in Europe and North  
Africa, 1941 - 1945



# North Africa: The Contest for Oil



The Americans Reinforce the English to Halt Nazi Aggression



# Germany Seeks Oil in the Middle East

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Why the North Africa campaign? The short answer is oil. Germans sought to control North Africa and the Suez Canal in order to have access to the virtually unlimited oil supply in the Middle East. Moreover, if they were able to secure Egypt and the Arabian peninsula, they may be able to launch an invasion upon the Soviet Union from the South, thereby claiming Stalingrad, the Crimea, and the oil reserves of that nations as well. But this was not to be.



## Victory at El Alamein

British and American forces were able to stop the advance of the Nazis toward the Suez Canal during the Battle of El Alamein. Erwin Rommel – “The Desert Fox” – was defeated here, and an invasion of Italy would be launched from secured positions in North Africa.



# The Eastern Front and Russian Oil

It is impossible to even convey in writing the depravity which the Soviets were forced to endure in fighting against the Nazis on the Eastern Front. At Leningrad, Moscow, and Stalingrad, three of the most horrifying battles in human history were waged. The siege of Leningrad lasted for over two years, and resulted in the starvation of hundreds of thousands of citizens. The combined efforts, however, of the Red Army and the Russian winter eventually crushed Nazi aggression. The victory, though, came at great cost. Over twenty million Russian soldiers perished.



After the Nazis broke the Non-Aggression Pact with the Soviet Union, bitter fighting would ensue on the Eastern Front. The Germans inflicted heavy casualties, yet the Red Army would never surrender Stalingrad or cede the oil fields in the South of their nation.





# Europe, 1939 - 1945

How the Allies Defeated the Nazi Germany and Restored Peace

# Poland is Crushed

When evaluating the tense relationship between the USSR and England and The United States, it is important to recall the origins of the war. After all, when Poland was crushed in 1939, it was not only the Nazi who invaded the beleaguered nation. Indeed, the USSR invade the east of Poland (and Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland) even as the Nazis invaded from the West.





# The Phony War and the Fall of France

Historians characterize the first year of World War II as “the phony war.” Essentially, the Germany blitzkriegs in Western Europe went unopposed. Denmark and Scandinavian nations were either conquered rapidly or negotiated an accord with the Nazis, and little resistance could be put up against the Nazi Wehrmacht by the low countries of the Netherlands or Belgium.



The “Phony” War refers to the assaults carried out by Nazi blitzkrieg on nations throughout Europe which generally saw no resistance from the occupied powers. Denmark, for example, waited patiently.



## Dunkirk – A Moral Victory by Evacuation

When the French and English first attempted to stand up to the Nazis, the result was disastrous. But it might have been worse. The people of Britain evacuated 300,000 soldiers from the beaches at Dunkirk across the English Channel. These soldiers would live to fight another day, and many would storm the beaches at Normandy.



“We shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.” – Winston Churchill

# The Royal Air Force Prevails

Outnumbered ten to one at the start of the fighting, the Royal Air Force proved to be formidable in battle, destroying a good deal of the Germany Luftwaffe over the islands of Great Britain. Churchill declared of the RAF, “Never was so much owed by so many to so few.” The men were able to stave off the Germans. Growing weary, Hitler’s attention turned to the East, and he made perhaps the biggest mistake of the war if Nazism was to prevail.





# Operation Barbarossa



In the summer of 1941, Hitler broke the so-called Non-Aggression Pact with Stalin and launched a massive invasion of the Soviet Union: Operation Barbarossa. The Soviet Union was not caught off guard, but they were completely unprepared for the attack. It is speculated the Josef Stalin had an emotional breakdown at the start of the attack – radio silence prevailed for several days. However, when Stalin returned to leadership, he became the symbolic protector of all the Russians.

# The Soviets Plea for the Second Front

- ▶ As the war dragged on along the Eastern Front, the Soviet Union and Josef Stalin consistently demanded one thing from their allies in England and the United States: a second front. Between 1939 and 1944, the Soviet Union took on the Nazis virtually single-handedly. D-Day would not come until June 6, 1945.



Soviet soldiers would bitterly refer to Spam as “The Second Front.” The USSR barely held on at the start of the war.

# Stalingrad – Turning Point in the East

The suffering of the Russian people during World War II cannot be conveyed in any caption. Millions were executed by mobile killing squads called Einstazgruppen, which targeted Jewish citizens in Western Russia, but killed indiscriminately at times. The number of casualties would rise into the tens of millions before the Soviet Union was able to stop the progress of the Germans at Stalingrad, capture hundreds of thousands of Nazis at Moscow, and begin the long march towards Berlin, routing the Nazis along the way.





# The Italian Front

After winning in North Africa, American and English soldiers invaded Sicily, then landed at Anzio and began to secure Italy. To some extent, this is a forgotten portion of the war. American soldiers, including the Nisei – Japanese American soldiers – fought against both the Fascist Italians and Nazis who reinforce them. Many in Italy, however, chose to resist their own leaders. By 1944, Mussolini had been killed by his own people, and many of the Italians welcomed the Americans as liberators.



# The D-Day Invasion: Operation Overlord

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Operation Overlord was the code name for the invasion of Western Europe led by General Dwight David Eisenhower in 1944. The amphibious assault on Normandy in France was expected by the Nazis, but the time and place would perplex them. Once launched, the landing went smoothly at most of the beachheads – Omaha was the exception to the rule.



Omaha Beach was the most dramatic assault of the day, but the invasion to liberate Europe also began with landings at Sword, Juno, Gold, and Utah beaches. The invasion did not take place until June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944.

# Omaha Beach

After members of airborne divisions were dropped over central France as a distraction and the navy had battered the coastline to soften up the German lines, a massive assault of the beaches began June 6, 1944.



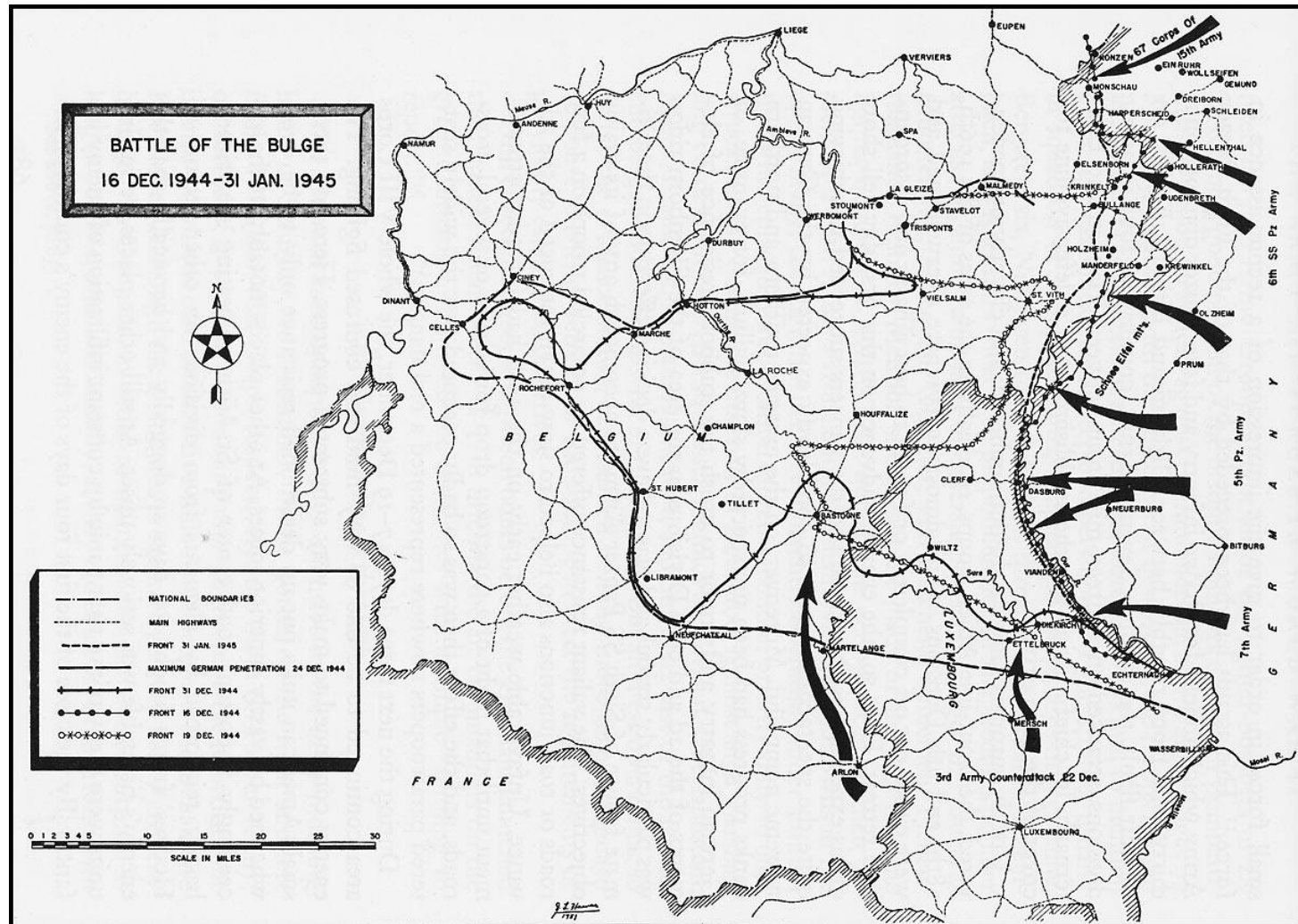


# The Battle of the Bulge

The fighting in France was slow but steady progress, with each hedgerow requiring patience and diligent practice in order to force Germany retreat. The last major fight between American soldiers and the Nazi was at the Battle of the Bulge.



# Battle of the Bulge Map





## Incendiary Bombings: Dresden

As the Soviets made rapid progress from east to west, American and British bombers punished Germany from the air. In Dresden a city of 600,000 was destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of civilians perished.





# Tuskegee Airmen

- ▶ The Tuskegee Airmen provided cover for the bombing raids which wrecked Germany during World War II, never allowing the Germany Luftwaffe to take down the aircraft under their protection during bombing runs. Flying in segregated units, the Tuskegee Airmen had an outstanding record of success.



## The Big Three Conferences: Yalta

When Churchill, FDR, and Josef Stalin all met at the Yalta Conference in the spring of 1945, the writing was on the wall for Nazism. FDR sought and received assurances from Stalin that elections would take place in Europe.





# Hitler's Suicide

- ▶ In April of 1945, Hitler took his own life as Soviet troops made their way into Berlin. The Soviet Union's soldiers were hell bent upon punishing the Nazis for the crimes they had committed, and were especially brutal to the Germans they encountered, pillaging the land, looting through the personal belongings of the German people, and raping women throughout Eastern Europe.





# Berlin Falls to the Soviets

- ▶ As American and British soldiers closed in on Berlin from the West, the Soviet Union's soldiers entered the city from the East. When the Allied Powers converge in Berlin during the end of April of 1945, the war was at a close. At the time, Americans and Soviets had achieved a tenuous peace with one another – but this wouldn't last either.



The Soviet Union's flag was hoisted up above the ruined city of Berlin in 1945. The Red Army would reek havoc upon the people of Germany – and the rest of Eastern Europe – during the final year of the war.

# V-E Day: May 8, 1945

- ▶ When the war finally came to an end on May 8, 1945, joyous celebrations erupted all around the world. And yet, for Americans, the conclusion of the war in Europe was tempered by the fact that another war still raged in the Pacific. At the time, many Americans believed that the war in the Pacific may continue for another two or three years.



# The Big Three Conferences: Potsdam

- ▶ When the Potsdam Conference took place in the summer of 1945, the partition of Germany and the fate of Poland were much discussed. Germany was to be divided and occupied by the Allied Powers. Sadly, Poland would now fall into the dominion of the Soviet Union, meaning that the nation whose sovereignty was critical to the start of the conflict in Europe would continue to be violated by the USSR.





# The Partition of Germany & Berlin

- ▶ Both the nation of Germany and its capital city, Berlin, were to be divided up into four parts. The United States, England, and France all agreed to converge their territory into the capitalist and democratic institutions of West Germany and West Berlin. The Soviet Union installed communist dictatorships – puppet governments to be certain – which left Germany divided from 1945 – 1990. For the USSR, which had been attacked by the Germans twice in the past thirty years, this situation was perfectly reasonable.



# The Holocaust: Genocide and War Crimes During World War II



Hitler's Final Solution, The Geneva Convention, War Crimes and Executions in the Aftermath of World War II

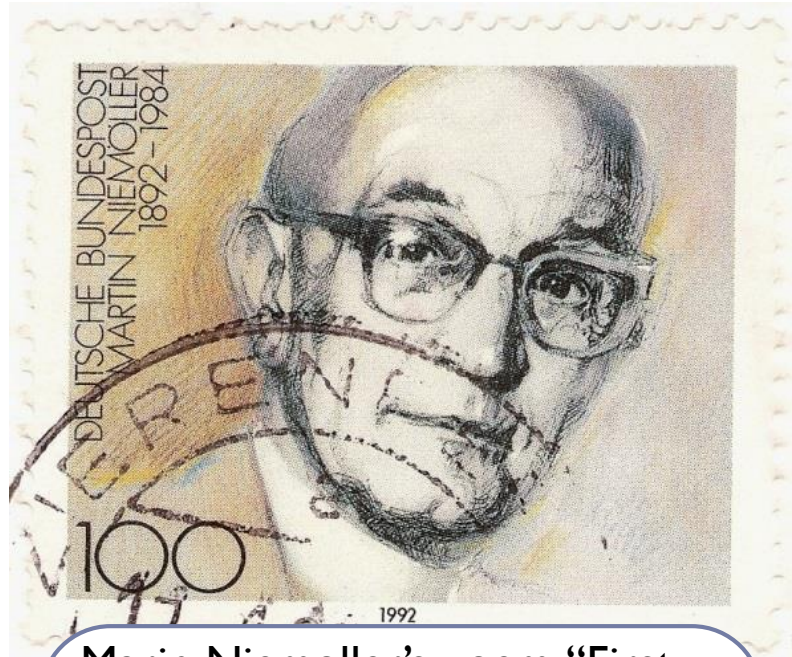
# Anti-Semitism and Racism

Anti-Semitic propaganda was throughout Europe during the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century; it was not at all unique to Germany. Indeed, Russian and Polish pogroms were known for their extreme brutality, and during the Holocaust, many of the nations of Eastern and Southern Europe would be complicit in rounding up Jewish citizens and sending them to their deaths. Monuments and museums throughout Eastern Europe today serve to remind us of the orderly, systematic genocide which was carried out in during World War II, as over 13 Million people were murdered.





# Martin Niemoller



Martin Niemöller's poem, "First They Came For..." is one of the most clear indictments of fascism ever written. The implications of Nazism and Fascism were clear to this Christian philosopher early on.

First they came for the communists,  
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists,  
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews,  
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for me  
and there was no one left to speak out for me.

*First They came... - Pastor Martin  
Niemöller*

# The Definition of the Holocaust

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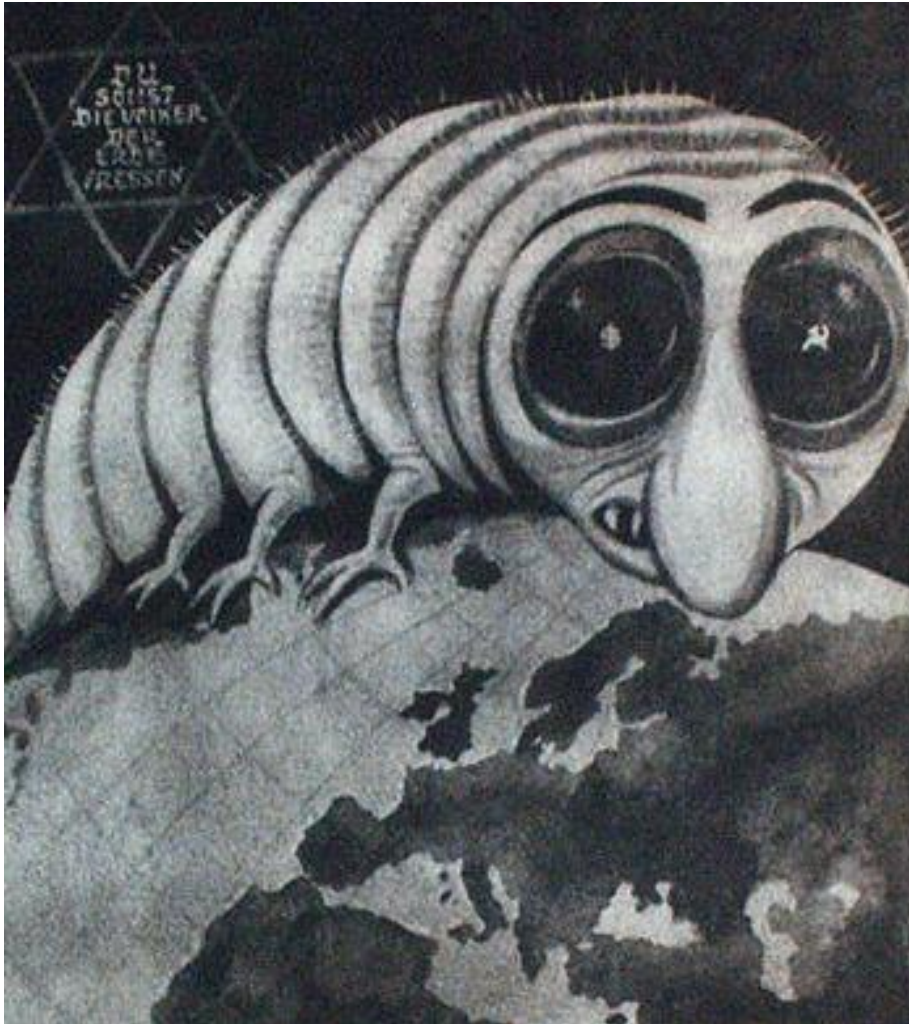
- ▶ The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. "Holocaust" is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." When we use the term "Holocaust" to describe the genocide which took place at the hands of Nazis in Germany during World War II, we are describing the systematic murder – and the burning of the bodies in ovens– of millions of the Jewish men and women in Europe between 1933 and 1945. The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community, or Aryan race.
- ▶ During the era of the Holocaust, German authorities also targeted other groups because of their perceived "racial inferiority": Roma (Gypsies), the disabled, and some of the Slavic peoples (Poles, Russians, and Serbs, for example). Other groups were persecuted on political, ideological, and behavioral grounds, among them Communists, Socialists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and homosexuals.

Source: <http://www.ushmm.org/>

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# Anti-Semitic Propaganda



The children of Germany during the 1930s were essentially raised on Anti-Semitic propaganda. All children's stories employed evil Jewish characters, and the Jewish citizen was equated with grotesque, distorted physical features and unseemly character traits. Blaming Jewish intellectuals for Bolshevism in Russia and Jewish financiers for predatory lending schemes was common. Note the reflections in the eyes of this parasitic creature – the dollar sign in its right eye, the hammer and sickle of the Soviet Union in the its left. The Star of David in the background of the figure leaves us with the clear implication that Jewish people intend to do harm to Germany.



# The Night of November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1938. Kristallnacht – “The Night of Broken Glass”

In Germany, the night of broken glass was the a bell in the night for most Jewish citizens. An organized pogrom authorized and provoked by the Nazi government, the rioting resulted in arsons against synagogues and the destruction of Jewish owned stores. The rosters of Jewish synagogue members were taken, and all Jewish men capable of labor were arrested in the aftermath of the rioting. Being careful not to provoke an international incident, no foreign national were molested in the ordeal by the Nazis. Most nations, the United States included, expressed shock and regret, but did little else in response to this clear assault on the liberties of Jewish citizens of Germany.

## The New York Times.

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Postoffice, New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1938.

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END  
USH  
ANS  
Build  
**NAZIS SMASH, LOOT AND BURN  
JEWISH SHOPS AND TEMPLES  
UNTIL GOEBBELS CALLS HALT**





## The Ghettos

Eastern Europeans often helped the Nazis to round up and segregate Jewish citizens. They were vacated of their homes, robbed of their possessions, and taken to ghettos first. The largest of these segregated communities were in Warsaw, Poland and Lodz. Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children were robbed of their civil liberties and their property, before being sent to the death camps via rail. Conditions in the ghettos were already desperate; however, they would grow much worse.

## Transport to the Death Camps

Crowded into cattle cars and deprived of food, warmth, and any form of basic sanitation, Jewish people and other victims of the Holocaust were transported from the ghettos of Eastern Europe to the death camps.





## Death Camps and the Victims

Each individual brought into the camps was tattooed with a number; their heads were shaved, their possessions were taken from them, and they were put to work. Over 13 Million people were killed by the Nazis.



## Selections and War Crimes

The selections of who would live and who would die were made upon arrival at the camps in places like Auschwitz or Treblinka. The weak were immediately murdered; the healthy were systematically worked to death.





## The Survivors

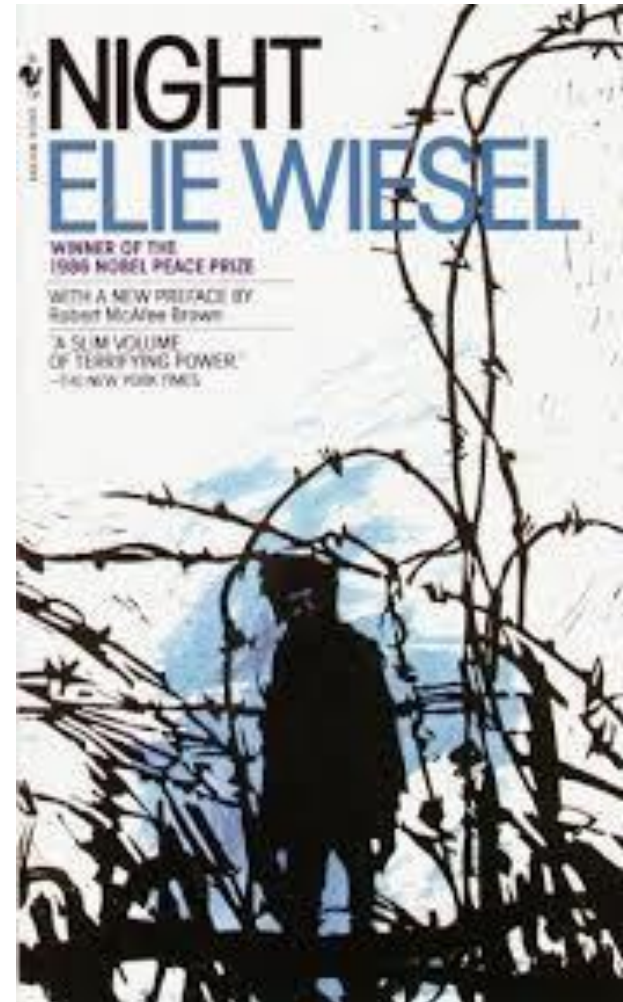
When soldiers from the Soviet Union and the United States began to liberate the death camps in Eastern Europe and in Germany, the Nazis were already attempting to cover up their crimes. Mass graves were unearthed in Eastern Europe, and camps which were wrecked by outbreaks of dysentery or other contagious diseases – where prisoners were starving and brutally mistreated and millions had been killed – were freed.





# Elie Wiesel's Night

In his devastating biographical account of the Holocaust Night, Elie Wiesel attempts to convey the atrocities committed during the Holocaust and the implications of the event for all of mankind. In describing the deaths of his parents, his sister, and the millions of others who were lost during the genocide, Wiesel dramatically conveys mankind's capacity to do harm to mankind – and the implications of this realization for future generations.



## War Crimes

The Nazis had targeted civilian populations throughout the war. The ghastly and inhumane work of groups like the Einstazgruppen and the men who worked in death camps would not be condoned as “just following orders.”



# Trials at Nuremburg

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Translators read the evidence against the accused in several languages during the Nuremburg Trials. Hosted in the same city where Hitler had organized massive Nazi political speeches, the sentencing of Nazi war criminals to the gallows allowed for some sense of closure to come of the war years; how to sort out the grave implications of The Holocaust for the future of mankind was an altogether different sort of calculus; but the notion that international justice was feasible brought change.

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# Execution of War Criminals

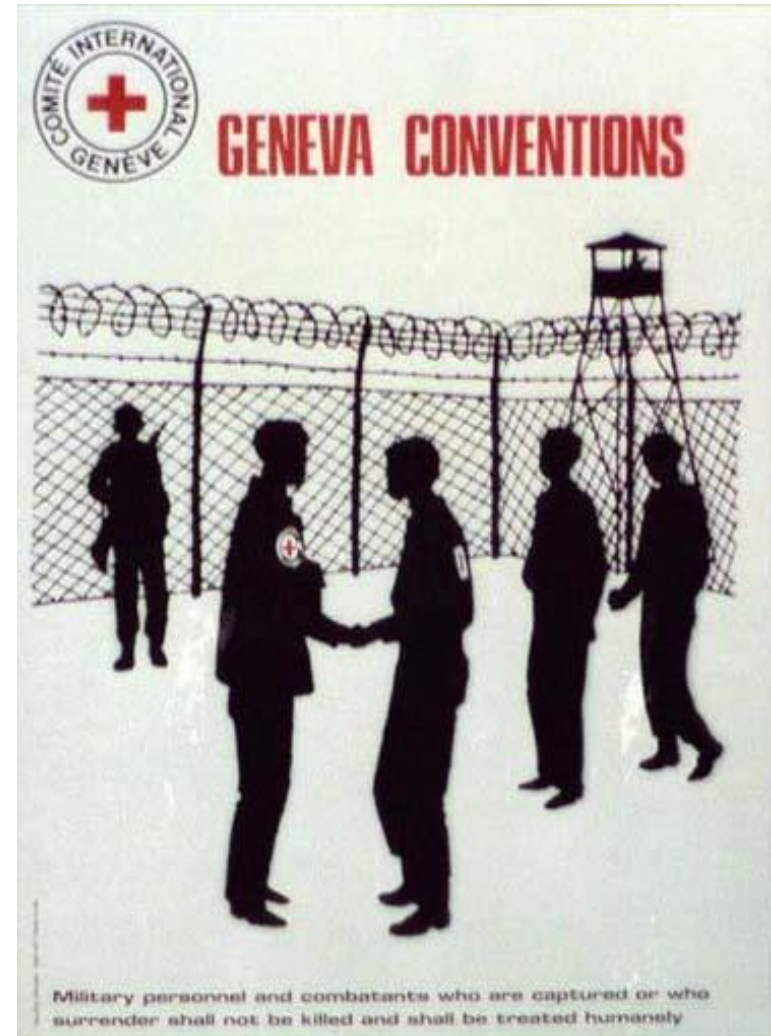
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- ▶ War criminals during World War II were put on trial for crimes against humanity, sentenced, and often executed. After the Nuremburg Trials, most Americans recall the execution of notorious Nazi war criminals. Hideki Tojo of Japan was also put to death – this, after having attempted to kill himself while prisoner. The crimes committed by the Japanese military in China – the rape of Nanking, for example – were ample evidence that war crimes had been committed.



# The Geneva Convention

- ▶ The Geneva Convention established rules for the treatment of prisoners of war and continued to articulate the rules of war. Rejecting the notion that during warfare all soldiers must “follow orders,” the Geneva Convention sets forth a set of basic principles which all nations must adhere to. The preservation of basic human rights – even during time of war – is required, and international leaders the world over can be brought to justice for war crimes when these rules are violated, at least in principle.



# The Creation of the United Nations

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Established by a charter signed in San Francisco in 1945, the United Nations was a much more practical peacekeeping organization than the League of Nations. Recognizing the necessity of conforming to the real work power dynamics of the international community, the UN granted veto powers to five nations as permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, the USSR, England, France, and China. The organization remains devoted to international peacekeeping and the preservation of human rights internationally.





# The Establishment of Israel

- ▶ In 1948, the nation of Israel was established in Palestine, a region which was formerly under the control of the English. Committed to the notion of a homeland for Jewish people, the international community supported the establishment of the new nation in the Middle East. Within days, both the Soviet Union and the United States recognized the sovereignty of Israel over their territory and announced their support for Israel's right to exist.

